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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
Washington, DC 20350-2000

OPNAVINST 5450.189A
OP-09J
22 November 1989

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 5450.189A

From: Chief of Naval Operations
To: All Ships and Stations

Subj: MISSION AND FUNCTIONS OF
THE NAVAL LEGAL SERVICE
COMMAND

Ref: (a) OPNAVNOTE 5450 ser 09B33/
4351 of 3 Dec 73 (NOTAL)
(b) OPNAVNOTE 5450 ser 09B26/
144498 of 4 Jan 80 (NOTAL)

Encl: (1) Mission and Functions of the
Naval Legal Service Command

1. Purpose. To publish the mission to be accomplished and the functions to be performed by the Naval Legal Service Command.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 5450.189 (NOTAL).

3. Organization and Command Relationships

a. The Naval Legal Service was approved by the Secretary of the Navy on 3 October 1973, was established by reference (a), and became operational on 1 July 1974. The Judge Advocate General (JAG) was assigned additional duty to the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) as Director, Naval Legal Service.

b. Reference (b) redesignated the Naval Legal Service as the Naval Legal Service Command, an echelon 2 command, and changed the title of the officer in command to Commander, Naval Legal Service Command (COMNAVLEGSVCCOM).

c. On 31 January 1989 the Secretary of the Navy directed that the Deputy JAG be assigned as COMNAVLEGSVCCOM, in order (1) to permit the JAG to perform his primary duty of providing advice and support to the Secretary of the Navy, CNO, and Commandant of the Marine Corps, and (2) to separate the formulation of

Navy legal policy from the provision of legal services in the field.

4. Mission and Functions. The mission and functions of the Naval Legal Service Command are set forth in enclosure (1).

5. Authority Over Organizational Matters. COMNAVLEGSVCCOM is authorized to organize, assign and reassign responsibilities with the Naval Legal Service Command, including the establishment and disestablishment of such component organizations as may be necessary. The establishment and disestablishment of detachments and shore activities shall follow procedures prescribed by regulation.

6. Action. COMNAVLEGSVCCOM shall accomplish the mission and perform the functions set forth in enclosure (1) and shall advise the CNO of items of sufficient importance to warrant change to this instruction.

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MISSION AND FUNCTION OF THE NAVAL LEGAL SERVICE COMMAND

Mission. To administer the legal service program and provide the command direction for all Naval Legal Service Command activities and resources as may be assigned; and to perform such other functions or tasks as may be related to the Naval Legal Service Command as directed by the Chief of Naval Operations.

Functions

1. Exercise command direction and authority over, and assume responsibility for, Naval Legal Service Command activities to meet, in an optimum manner, that portion of the Navy's legal-service requirements for which the Naval legal Service Command is responsible.
2. Assign missions and tasks to Naval Legal Service Offices as required.
3. Provide advice and recommendations concerning resource requirements for the Naval Legal Service Command, including its subordinate activities.
4. Provide policy, technical, and administrative guidance for the operation of the Naval Legal Service Command.
5. Ensure defense counsel assigned to represent accused persons before courts-martial and respondents before administrative bodies are qualified, and that they remain free from any improper influence in the conduct of their cases.
6. Discharge other responsibilities related to the administration of the Naval Legal Service Command as may be assigned by the Chief of Naval Operations.

Enclosure (1)